REMARKS

Claims 1–28 are pending in the application. Claims 1-28 are rejected. Claim 19 has been cancelled in this Response. Claims 1-18 and 20-28 remain for continued examination. Claims 1, 2, 4, 11, 18 and 22 have been amended.

Claim Rejections

Claims 2-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 1-5, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,910,134 issued to Mahler (hereinafter "Mahler").

Claims 6, 8-17 and 22-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mahler in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,785,667 issued to Fritchman (hereinafter "Fritchman").

Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mahler in view of Fritchman and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,367,076 issued to Imai (hereinafter "Imai").

Independent claims 1 and 18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Mahler. With regard to the rejection of claim 1, Examiner takes the position that Mahler discloses "a tag map interfaced with the content engine and operable to tag packets." Independent claim 1 has been amended to recite that the tag map is interfaced with the content engine and is operable to perform mappings between expressions and subexpressions to generate modified tags for predetermined packets according to the predetermined expressions found by the content engine. Mahler does not disclose the use of a tag map to perform mappings between expressions and subexpressions to generate modified tags as recited in amended claim 1. It is respectfully submitted, therefore, that independent claim 1, as amended, distinguishes Applicant's invention over Mahler.

Independent claim 18 has been amended to incorporate the limitations previously recited in dependent claim 19. Claim 18, as amended, recites a packet buffer interfaced with the

enqueue engine for storing packets, wherein the enqueue engine is operable to transmit an out-of-order packet, mark the out-of-order packet as sent and buffer the out-of-order packet so that any missing packet can be resent. Applicant respectfully submits that the features recited in amended independent claim 18 are not taught by Mahler, nor are these features taught by the combination of Mahler with any other art of record.

Independent claim 11 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mahler in view of Fritchman. Independent claim 11, as amended, now recites a tag map that is used to perform a mapping between regular expressions and subexpressions and is further used to generate a modified tag corresponding to matches between predetermined expressions and subexpressions. This feature is not shown in Mahler nor is it taught by Fritchman. It is respectfully submitted, therefore, that independent claim 11, as amended, is allowable over the art of record.

Claim 22 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mahler. Claim 22 has been amended to recite a tag map operable to perform mappings between expressions and subexpressions to generate modified tags for predetermined packets according to the predetermined expressions found by the content engine. This feature is not taught by Mahler nor is it taught by Fritchman. It is respectfully submitted, therefore, that independent claim 22, as amended, is allowable over the art of record. It is respectfully submitted that dependent claims 2-9, 12-17, 20-21 and 23-38 are allowable since they are dependent on independent claims that are allowable for the reasons set forth above.

CONCLUSION

In view of the remarks set forth herein, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is solicited. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on March 1, 2006.

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Respectfully submitted,

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-10-